

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

5-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

9. (original) A host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

10-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide consists ~~having a nucleotide sequence consisting~~ of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.
27. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide consists ~~having a nucleotide sequence consisting~~ of SEQ ID NO:3.
28. (previously presented) The vector of claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.
29. (currently amended) The vector of claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 ~~is~~ ~~may be~~ expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.
30. (previously presented) The vector of claim 29, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.
31. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a transcript/cDNA sequence that encodes a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) SEQ ID NO:1; and
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(b).
32. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.
33. (previously presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 32.

34. (previously presented) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 33 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

35. (previously presented) The vector of claim 32, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

36. (currently amended) The vector of claim 32, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 is ~~may be~~ expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

37. (previously presented) The vector of claim 36, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.